

Original

After spending approximately ten years with the Dartmouth Outing Club as a woodcraft instructor, desires and hopes have grown into dreams that have begun to materialize. The biggest dream was the getting together of other outing clubs in open contest of woodcraft events and cultivating that most important outdoor spirit that stands so clearly for true sportsmanship. In 1947 such an event was held at Dartmouth on a sort of trial basis, enough interest was generated that this year another one was held at Storrs pond Hanover N.H. and to me was a (dreaming again) howling success. The contests in themselves was exceptionally satisfying but the spirit that all the clubs showed was, or should have been incentive enough to strive each year to make WOODSMEN'S WEEKEND bigger and better, bigger in entries and events, the spirit couldn't possibly be any cleaner or stronger.

In the felling and twitching events the respect for a keen bladed axe was very outstanding notwithstanding the high pitch of enthusiasm, and in the canoeing events I observed spirit and sportsmanship that made you glow all over and Yes! brought tears to my eyes, one of the smallest boys in the events gave one of the grandest exhibitions of outdoor spirit that could possibly exist. Four colleges and one prep school participated in the meet and the prep school finished second in the final tally, I watched these events very closely and from my observations the spirit shown far outshone the ability in winning points.

So another year all clubs participating in Woodsmen's weekend, begin now to iron out some of these things--In fire building and water boiling, remember a fire and it's heat radiation responds differently on a windy day over a calm day. In canoeing events the same thing applied, your paddle strokes and turns must be applied differently to accomplish your maxim, on a windy day over a calm one, In fly casting both for distance as well as accuracy it is all important that your line balances with the action of your rod, in a heavy wind so much more power must be applied than on a calm days



so practice on windy days as well as calm ones.

If all the clubs will observe these things each meet will be more exciting something to look ahead to each year.

My sincere wish is that Woodsmen's weekend will never reach a push button stage or that the contestants will never enter with dress suits, Let's keep it rough but clean, I observed two contestants entering the doubles canoe race, before they took off they put into their cheeks a Woodsman's balance wheel, See what

I mean ? Let's be men and not dress models, let's use sportsmanship for fuel always so our fires will burn with a clear flame instead of too much smoke. Let's make each year a better one by profiting from our errors of previous meets.

Almost my entire life has been spent in the forests and I still learn something every time I enter them, this alone keeps me looking ahead to my next trip Let's make Woodsmen's Weekend into the same thing, a desire for the next one.

C. Ross. McKenney.



WHEN DREAMS COME TRUE

Woodsman's Weekend  
By - Ross

After spending approximately ten years with the Dartmouth Outing Club as a woodcraft advisor, desires and hopes have grown into dreams that have begun to materialize. The biggest dream was the getting together of other outing clubs in an open contest of woodcraft events and the cultivating of that most important outdoor spirit that stands so clearly for true sportsmanship. In 1947 such a competition was held at Dartmouth on a sort of trial basis. Enough interest was generated so that this year another one, the Second Annual Woodsman's Weekend, was held at Storrs Pond, Hanover, N.H. To me that contest was a great success. The events in themselves were exceptionally satisfying, but the spirit displayed by all the clubs was incentive enough to want to strive each year to make Woodsman's Weekend bigger and better - bigger in events and entries. The spirit couldn't possibly be any cleaner or stronger.

In the felling and twitching events the respect for a keen bladed axe was very outstanding, even with the high pitch of enthusiasm for the competition. In the canoeing events I observed spirit and sportsmanship that made you glow all over and -yes - even brought tears to my eyes. One of the smallest boys in the competition gave one of the grandest exhibitions of outdoor spirit that I have seen. Four colleges and one prep-school participated in the meet, and the prep-school finished second in the final tally. I watched these events very closely, and from my observations the spirit shown far outdid the ability ~~to~~ just win ~~the~~ points.



I hope that all the clubs participating in Woodsman's Weekend another year will begin now to iron out some of the difficulties. In fire-building and water boiling, remember that a fire and the heat it radiates responds differently on a windy day than on a calm day. In canoeing the same thing applies; your paddle strokes and turns must be applied differently on a windy day to accomplish the maximum in speed. In fly casting, for both distance and accuracy, it is all important that your line balances with the action of your rod, and in a heavy wind a great deal more power must be applied than on a calm day. This means you should practice on windy days as well as calm ones. If all the clubs will remember these things, each meet will be more exciting and something to look forward to.

I am sure that Woodsman's Weekend will never reach a "push-button" stage, nor that contestants will ever enter ~~in dress suits~~ in dress suits. Let's keep it rough but clean. I observed two contestants entering the doubles canoe race. Before they took off they put into their cheeks a woodsman's balance wheel. See what I mean? Let's be men and not dress models. Let's use sportsmanship for fuel so our fires will burn with a clear flame instead of too much smoke. Let's make each year a better one, profiting from our mistakes made in previous meets.

Almost my entire life has been spent in the forest and I still learn something every time I enter it. This alone keeps me looking ahead to my next trip. Let's make Woodsman's Weekend into the same sort of thing - something toward which we always look with enthusiasm.

C. Ross McKenney.

May, 1948.